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ANTHROPOLOGY.¹

ANTHROPOLOGICAL NEWS.—In the *Geographical Magazine*, for February, will be found an interesting autobiography of Hans Hendrik, an Eskimo, who served with Kane, Hayes, Hall, and Sir George Nares, translated by Dr. Rink.

Dr. Hoffman, Assistant Surgeon U. S. A., communicates the following description of a practice among the Dakotas, of Grand river, D. T., for producing abortion: The hair from the tail of the black-tailed deer is cut up into short pieces and fried in the fat of black bears' paws. The patient swallows as much of this as is thought necessary to produce the effect. There are certain old squaws who are recognized as "general assistants," and nurses to lying-in women, and they are frequently called in to aid young and old women in producing abortion. The patient sits upon the lap of the nurse, who reaching around the abdomen and interlacing her fingers to get a secure hold, hugs her victim with all her strength repeatedly and for a long time. This frequently ends to the satisfaction of the operator and subject.

Mr. Paul Schumacher, writing from San Francisco, makes the following communication with reference to the perforated stone discs found so abundantly in Southern California and elsewhere: "With reference to the employment of these objects to give weight to digging-sticks, I received my information from a half-breed Indian who had seen, in his youth, the last aboriginal inhabitants of the Island of Santa Cruz, still occupying the *rancheria* at Prisoners' Harbor, in which I made excavations for the Smithsonian Institution three years ago. I have since followed up the subject, and although positive proof is wanting, no contradictory evidence was observed during my researches. The aborigines cultivated extensively on some of the islands, a species of plant, on the bulbs of which they partly subsisted, and they even exchanged them with the people of the main land. I did not say that the design of the digging-stick was to open graves, as the handy *Haliotis* shell was better adapted to this purpose in the sandy ground of the islands in which the graves are located. The fact that some of the rings are of light weight is no argument against my position, as digging-sticks are used without weight, by the Australians of our day. There is hardly a class of relics that is not frequently represented by diminutive specimens, rougher and less symmetrical than the full-sized (they may have been playthings for children); but these should not deter the student from correctly naming the average sized objects." Mr. Bowers says, "Those of pyramidal form were doubtless used for spinning, while the others [simply a variety in form, but alike in perforation] were used in games." How were these used for games, and those for spinning? I have summed up the evidence for their use as weights to digging-sticks in a paper, entitled "Aboriginal

¹ Edited by Prof. ORIS T. MASON, Columbian College, Washington, D. C.

Manufacture," now in the hands of the Curator of the Peabody Museum.

The second part of *Anales del Museo Nacional de Mexico* contains the following anthropological papers: Cuestion Historica, Sr. D. Jesús Sanchez; Dedicacion del templo mayor de México, Sr. D. Manuel Orozcoy Berra; Estudio comparativo entre el Sanscrito y el Nahuatl, Sr. G. Mendoza, director del Museo; Idolo Azteca de tépo japones.

The Smithsonian Institution has long had the intention of publishing an exhaustive work upon North American archæology, accompanied by maps, exhibiting by signs and colors the site and character of all archæological remains. To this end a circular has been issued and the Institution calls upon all lovers of American antiquities to lend a helping hand, which the readers of the *NATURALIST*, doubtless, will not be backward in doing.

FOREIGN.—The following papers have come to our notice since our last issue: Gaul and its History under the Romans, by Professor Friedlander, in *Deutsche Rundschau*, for December; Mythology among the Hebrews, Ignaz Goldzieher, reviewed in *Nature*, January 3d; The Second Harvest in Olympia, Professor Ernst Curtius, *International Review*, February; Das Problem über den Ursprung der Sprache, O. Caspari, in *Ausland*, 1877, Nos. 47, 48, 49; Der Mensch, vormalig und heute, Richard Oberländer, Otto Spämer, Leipzig, 1878; La Question de l'Homme Tertiaire, L'Abbé Bourgeois, Louvain, Peeters, 1877; Grammar and Dictionary of Samoan, Rev. G. Pratt, London, edited by S. J. Whitmee; *The China Review*, or Notes and Queries on the Far East, bi-monthly, Trübner & Co.; Transactions of the Philological Society of London, 1877-8-9, Part I, 800 pp.; Ueber die Methoden zur Ermittlung der topographischen Beziehungen zwischen Hirnoberfläche und Schädel, A. Ecker, in *Archiv für Anthropologie*, 1877, III.; Die Grosshirnwindungen des Menschen und deren Beziehungen zum Schädeldach, von Dr. I. Heffler, id; zur Archæologie des Balticum und Russlands, von A. Grewinck, id; Les Allees Couvertes de la Provence, P. Cazalis de Fondouce, *Matériaux*, 10; Transactions of the Asiatic Society of Japan, V, Part I, October 1876-1877; Transactions of the New Zealand Institute, Index of Vols. I-VIII, by James Hector, Wellington; The Physical Basis of Mind, *Mind*, January; Fetichism in Animals, Geo. J. Romanes, *Nature*; "The Land of Cold, M. Nevirovich-Danchenko, St. Petersburg; Assyriology, *London Quarterly*, January; The Languages of India, Robert Cust, *Geographical Magazine*, January, finely illustrated; An Account of the Polynesian Race: its Origin and Migrations, and the Ancient History of the Hawaiians, Abraham Fornander, Vol. I, Trübner; The Dawn of History; An Introduction to Pre-historic Study, C. F. Keary, London, Mozley & Smith; Archæology in Italy, Felice Barnabei, *Academy*, January 12.—OTIS T. MASON, Washington, D. C.